



Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS AIRES 44896 271628Z

OCCASIONAL STREET CHECKPOINTS OR ANSWER ROUTINE POLICE. SOME INQUIRIES, A VISITOR OR FOREIGN RESIDENT COULD BE CAUGHT UP INADVERTENTLY IN MAN INCIDENTS, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO AMERICAN TOURIST OR RESIDENT HAS HAD THIS MISFORTUNE TO DATE. FOR THE TOURIST OR "PRIVATE" FOREIGN RESIDENT IN GENERAL, THAT IS, A RESIDENT NOT DIRECTLY IDENTIFIED WITH AN EMBASSY OR BUSINESS CONCERN, THERE IS AN FAIRLY LOW LEVEL OF DANGER. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMING TO ARGENTINA TO RESIDE IN RECENT MONTHS FROM THE US HAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS IS APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE NOT TO ANY SPECIFIC INCIDENT INVOLVING STUDENTS, BUT TO IMPRESSIONS AND CREATED BY PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GENERAL SITUATION.

ADVICE TO BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS AT SECONDARY, UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVEL AND EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT INCLUDE:

A. AVOIDANCE TO DEGREE POSSIBLE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN FOUR PROVINCES OF SANTA FE (CITY OF ROSARIO), CORDOBA, TUCUMAN, AND CATAMARCA. THESE ARE AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTENSITY OF SECURITY PROBLEMS. STUDENTS MIGHT ALSO AVOID UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE. AS GENERAL RULE, A FOREIGN STUDENT WILL BE LESS CONSPICUOUS IN BUENOS AIRES THAN IN A PROVINCIAL CITY AND STUDENT WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS EXPOSED TO ATTENTIONS OF EITHER THE LEFTIST EXTREMISTS OR GOA SECURITY FORCES.

B. STRICT AVOIDANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN ANY FORM OF INTERNAL ARGENTINE AFFAIRS. ARGENTINE UNIVERSITIES, LIKE MOST LATIN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, TEND TO BE CENTERS OF POLITICAL AGITATION. ANY FOREIGN STUDENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS, AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING ALOOF FROM ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF HIS COUNTRY. UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS, INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MAY BE INTERPRETED BY AUTHORITIES AS NOTHING MORE THAN ATTENDANCE AT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, ASSOCIATION EVEN BY ACCIDENT WITH SUBVERSIVES OR SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES, OR COLLECTING "SUBVERSIVE" LITERATURE.

C. NEW MILITARY GOA IS CONSERVATIVE IN POLITICS AND WITH RESPECT TO ITS OUTLOOK ON PERSONAL CONDUCT. AUTHORITIES CAN

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State **TELEGRAM**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03

BUENOS 04096 271628Z

BE EXPECTED TO CONSIDER UNCONVENTIONAL BEHAVIOR, RADICAL HAIR-
STYLES, UNKEMPT APPEARANCE OR BIZARRE DRESS, DRUG USE, ETC., AS
UNDESIRABLE AND A POSSIBLE INDICATION OF UNDESIRABLE POLITICAL AND
SOCIAL VIEWS. WE WOULD BE AMONG FIRST TO AGREE WITH STUDENTS THAT
THIS IS UNFAIR AND UNJUSTIFIED, BUT IT IS FACT OF LIFE IN
ARGENTINA WHICH A SERIOUS STUDENT WILL WISH TO TAKE INTO CON-
SIDERATION IF HE PLANS TO STUDY HERE.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE DO NOT THINK THAT A STUDENT WITH A STRONG
AND SPECIFIC INTEREST IN STUDY IN ARGENTINA SHOULD BE DISSUADED,
AS LONG AS HE IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE GIVEN ABOVE AND
TO CONDUCT HIMSELF PRUDENTLY.
CHAPLIN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NNNN

JUL 20 11 42 AM '76

RECEIVED

Declassified Case: OAS-52366 Date: 1-01-2013

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

US1576

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04728 201534Z

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

53
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSC-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INE-00

SCOT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-05 SS-15 CLAE-00 DOB-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 70474

078667

G.P. 201502Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6399
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ BUENOS AIRES 4728

INFO 6521 W/A
TAGS: 2115, AR
SUBJECT: SANTUCHO, OTHER TOP ERP LEADERS ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY
SECURITY FORCES

IS MARIO ROBERTO SANTUCHO AND ENRIQUE GORRIARAN MERLO, RESPECTIVELY THE NUMBER ONE AND TWO TOP LEADERS OF THE OUTLAWED PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), WERE ALLEGEDLY KILLED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (JULY 19) IN A JOINT ARMY AND POLICE RAID ON A SUBVERSIVE HIDEOUT NEAR LA PLATA. IN A LATER JOINT OPERATION, ANOTHER FIVE EXTREMISTS, ALSO ALLEGED TO BE ERP LEADERS, WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED. THE INCIDENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED, ALTHOUGH KEY NEWSMEN TELL US POLICE HAVE PRIVATELY CONFIRMED THE DEATH OF THE TWO SUBVERSIVE LEADERS. THE STORY WAS CARRIED IN MOST BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES, BUT IN THE CONDITIONAL TENSE. THE ONLY INFORMATION IN THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED LAST NIGHT WAS THAT AN ARMY CAPTAIN HAD BEEN KILLED DURING THE SHOOTOUT.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

PAGE 02

Buenos 04726 201534Z

ALREADY HARD-HIT ERP SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, MASSIVE
RECRUITATION BORN OF DESPERATION IS A POSSIBILITY IN THE IMMEDIATE
SHORT TERM. STRIPPED OF ITS TOP LEADERSHIP, ERP MAY SPEED UP A
REPORTED MERGER WITH THE STILL FORMIDABLE MONTENEGROS, WHO HAVE
APPARENTLY BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN ERP IN RECRUITING NEW
MEMBERS AND AVOIDING HEAVY LOSSES BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES.
EVEN SO, SANTUCHO'S DEATH WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL
BOOST TO MILITARY AND POLICE.

CHARLIE

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~